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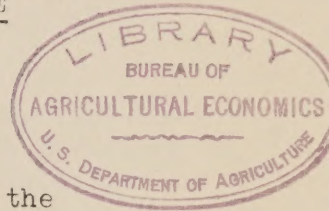
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COOPERATIVE EXTENSION WORK IN AGRICULTURE AND HOME ECONOMICS

U. S. Department of Agriculture
and State Agricultural Colleges
Cooperating

Extension Service, Office of
Cooperative Extension Work,
Washington, D. C.

REPORT OF RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE ADOPTED BY THE STATE REPRESENTATIVES
ATTENDING THE 1931 NATIONAL AGRICULTURAL OUTLOOK CONFERENCE
AT WASHINGTON, D. C., JANUARY 26-31, 1931



Your committee submits the following:

1. The committee recognizes that sound outlook research is the basis of outlook extension work and commends the progress that State extension workers have made in enlisting the cooperation of research workers in their States in the preparation of outlook information for the farmers' use and in the planning of research programs that best care for the needs in the economic field. We feel, however, that there is a need for even closer coordination of the research and extension programs in the different States and of a closer coordination of the research work of the Federal Bureau of Agricultural Economics and the research and extension programs in the different States. It is, therefore, recommended:

(a) That the collection of basic data and price analyses and other studies now being conducted by the Bureau of Agricultural Economics and the research studies in the different States be expanded. In view of the importance of dairy and poultry products to every State, it is especially urged that additional price analysis and production data on these commodities be collected and analyzed during 1931 in order that more factual evidence may be available for the 1932 outlook reports.

2. We recommend that in addition to the usual national outlook conference held in Washington, regional outlook conferences be held during the coming year in the areas covered by similar conferences held during the past year. We feel that these regional conferences should in no way take the place of the national conference but that they should be considered as a logical step forward in the development of a continuous year-around extension program for the dissemination of economic information. The committee feels that these regional conferences should be held for the following reasons:

(a) They afford a means of making outlook information on certain commodities available in the different regions at the time it is of the most value.

(b) They afford a much needed opportunity for further localizing outlook information.

(c) They enable the State workers attending them to concentrate their time and efforts on the commodities of major importance in their respective areas.

(d) They make possible the attendance of a larger number of State workers than can come to Washington for the national conference. This is especially true with reference to the attendance of the extension commodity specialists, county agents, and State research workers.

(e) These regional conferences also tend to encourage State workers to assemble and prepare for discussion local outlook information available in their States and in this way to bring about a better coordination of research and extension progress.

3. With reference to these regional conferences, we suggest that the functions of the three major agencies concerned, viz., the Federal Extension Service, the Federal Bureau of Agricultural Economics, and State Extension Services and Experiment Stations, be as follows:

(a) The Federal Office of Cooperative Extension in cooperation with the States to have the responsibility for organizing and conducting these regional conferences. Through the Economic Extension Unit this office is also responsible for assembling from State extension workers suggestions concerning the type of information desired from the Bureau of Agricultural Economics, and in a similar way to be responsible for assembling from the Bureau suggestions concerning local State information that will supplement information provided by the Bureau.

(b) The function of the Bureau of Agricultural Economics.- To supply information of world, national, and regional nature which applies to the outlook for the general agricultural and economic situation and to the commodities of specific importance in the areas concerned. To supply adequate personnel to attend these regional conferences for the purpose of discussing information furnished by the Bureau. In this connection the committee feels that there is greater need for the time of Bureau workers for attendance at these regional conferences than there is for their services in presenting outlook information to farmers at meetings scheduled following these conferences. Your committee recognizes and greatly appreciates the assistance that the Bureau of Agricultural Economics has given in the past by furnishing men for outlook meetings with farmers, but feels that the value of the time of these men would be greatly multiplied if spent in presenting outlook information to a group of extension workers at regional outlook conferences who would in turn present it to farmers.

(c) The function of the State extension workers.- It is recommended that, in so far as possible, the States endeavor to have a good attendance of commodity specialists, county agricultural agents, other extension workers, and State research men at these regional conferences. Experience has clearly shown that the inclusion of persons other than economic specialists in the work of these regional conferences is of decided value in tying up outlook information with other parts of the extension program. It is also recommended that State extension economists, in cooperation with the State research workers, assemble prior to the regional conferences local information on those commodities to be discussed at the regional conferences.

4. With reference to the question whether State workers wish the Bureau of Agricultural Economics to prepare printed regional outlook reports, your committee feels that there should be no national policy concerning this but that this matter should be left to the State workers in the various regions to decide. However, the committee specifically requests that workers in the Bureau who shall be present at the regional conferences to discuss outlook information prepare written reports.

5. The committee recommends that State commodity committees be set up for regional conferences and that the personnel of these committees be announced at least three months prior to the conference in question.

6. It is recommended that in general more time than last year be spent at regional conferences on methods of disseminating outlook information. It is further recommended that there be a committee of State extension workers to canvass the field for the purpose of ascertaining the type of methods discussions desired at regional outlook conferences.

7. It is recommended that there be a special committee of State and Federal workers on the adaptation of the outlook to individual farm problems through farm reorganization and readjustments.

8. It is recommended that the committees mentioned above be appointed by the Office of Cooperative Extension Work with the advice of the State extension workers.

9. It is recommended that the discussions at regional conferences cover only commodities of major importance in the areas concerned.

10. In the present progress of outlook work the committee strongly feels that the National Outlook Conference should not be omitted or restricted because:

(a) It provides the only means by which State workers can contact with the many sources of information available in the Bureau of Agricultural Economics and with the research men in the Bureau of Agricultural Economics.

(b) It is the only means by which State workers can contact with all other State workers.

(c) The National Conference furnishes information on many commodities which are not and can not well be considered at regional conferences because these commodities are not of importance to all the States in the region, although they are of great importance to one or two States.

(d) The National Conference is the only means by which State workers can follow inter-regional adjustments.

11. The committee specifically recommends that every State be represented at the National Outlook Conference by at least one man.

12. The committee feels that the outlook work should not be considered as a distinct and separate part of the extension program but should be closely coordinated not only with other economic work but with the entire extension program.

13. The committee recommends that the date of the National Outlook Conference be announced at least by October 1.

14. We wish to express our earnest appreciation for the efficient and untiring efforts of the staff of the Bureau of Agricultural Economics in the preparation or revision of outlook reports to best meet the needs of the States. We also appreciate their excellent work in preparing reports and assisting in discussion at the regional conferences held during 1930.

We further wish to express our sincere appreciation to the Extension Service and the Agricultural Economics Extension Unit for their services in organizing the national and regional outlook conferences so successfully.

Committee:

H. R. Wellman, California, Chairman,
T. M. Patterson, Mississippi,
D. C. Wood, Missouri,
M. C. Bond, New York,
P. L. Putnam, Connecticut,
C. R. Arnold, Ohio.

